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To: Microsoft ATR,fin@mobilizationoffice.com@inetgw
Date: 1/22/02 8:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This letter is so that I may go on record as being a supporter of the proposed settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. Although I was not supportive of the lawsuit against Microsoft in the first place, I will stand behind any reasonable agreement that brings an end to the senseless litigation that has been plaguing Microsoft.

There was a time not too long ago, for example, when it took the better part of several long hours to produce a reasonably efficient database application.

With the advent of Microsoft's Windows operating system, along with their integrated software suites, this task now takes mere minutes. Microsoft has been extremely beneficial to the economy in the past, and will continue to do so after this settlement. They have agreed not to retaliate against competitors who are making and ship software that competes with Microsoft's software. This will open-up the market, and encourage their competitors to be more innovative.

Why those in our government think that this sort of innovation deserves wrath, rather than praise lies completely beyond my scope of understanding. In any event, there is now a settlement on the table. This settlement is more than fair, given the dubious intentions of the lawsuit to begin with. It is my hope that this settlement will prevail and that those in government can get on with far more important issues.

In addition, Microsoft stock was and is a significant of my retirement portfolio and I am not at all please with what this litigation has done to the value of my Microsoft Investments.

Sincerely,

C. Sam Benson

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